

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (New): A method for identifying an item comprising the steps of;

- creating an image of said item;
- creating descriptive text of said item;
- associating said descriptive text with said image; and
- selectively using said image and said associated and descriptive text to identify said item.

Claim 16 (New): The method of Claim 15 wherein said item comprises an individual.

Claim 17 (New): A method of identifying an item comprising the steps of:

- creating an image of said item;
- creating a descriptive record of said item;
- storing said created image and said descriptive record;
- presenting a tangible object;
- displaying said previously stored image and said previously stored descriptive record in response to said presentment of said tangible object; and

using said previously stored image and previously stored descriptive record to identify said item.

Claim 18 (New): The method of Claim 17 wherein said item comprises an individual.

Claim 19 (New): The method of Claim 18 wherein said tangible object comprises a card having certain predetermined data.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 19 wherein said step of using said previously stored image and said previously stored descriptive record to identify said item comprises the step of comparing said previously stored image with said individual and of comparing said previously stored descriptive record with said individual.

Claim 21 (New): The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of allowing said individual to perform some predetermined action only if said individual has been identified.

Claim 22 (New): The method of Claim 21 wherein said predetermined action comprises using an automated teller machine.

Claim 23 (New): The method of Claim 21 wherein said predetermined action comprises performing a retail transaction

Claim 24 (New): The method of Claim 21 wherein said predetermined action comprises performing a financial transaction.

Claim 25 (New): The method of Claim 17 wherein said created image is stored within a first database and wherein said descriptive record is stored within a second database.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 17 wherein said descriptive record is stored within a database and wherein said created image is stored as a separate file.

Claim 27 (New): A method for identifying an item, said method comprising the steps of:

- creating an image of said item;
- compressing said created image;
- storing said compressed image and created image;
- creating text
- storing said created text;
- associating said created text with said stored and compressed image;
- selectively downloading said stored and compressed image;
- decompressing said downloaded image;
- displaying said downloaded and decompressed image and said associated text;
- and
- using said displayed decompressed image and said associated text to identify said item.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 27 wherein said decompressed image and said associated text are concurrently displayed.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 27 wherein said item comprises an individual.

Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 27 wherein said step of associating said text with said image comprises the step of placing a certain image identification tag within said text.

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 27 wherein said item composes a product.

Claim 32 (New): A method of selectively identifying a plurality of items, said method comprising the steps of:

creating separate images of each of said items;

separately compressing each of said images;

storing each of said compressed images;

creating text for each of said compressed images;

storing said created text;

downloading said compressed images and said respectively associated text in any desired order and at any desired time to a central station.

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 32 wherein said plurality of items comprises a plurality of individuals.

Claim 34 (New): A method for determining whether to allow a secure financial transaction to occur, said method comprising the steps of:

creating an image comprising at least one unique characteristic of an entity;

creating textual information;

associating said created textual information with said created image;

uploading, to at least one database, said created image and said created textual information;

retrieving said created image and said created textual information by use of said received information from said entity;

displaying at least a portion of said retrieved image and textual information, thereby creating a display;

performing a visual comparison of said display with said entity; and
determining whether to allow said financial transaction to occur by use of said
visual comparison and said textual information.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 34 wherein said step of performing said
visual comparison comprises the steps of:

ascertaining at least one physical characteristic of said entity; and
comparing said ascertained at least one physical characteristic with said image.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 34 wherein said entity comprises a human
being.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 34 wherein said step of displaying said at
least one portion of said received data occurs remotely from said database.

Claim 38 (New): The method of Claim 37 further comprising the steps of:
providing a terminal; and
coupling said terminal to said database by use of a private connection.

Claim 39 (New): The method of Claim 37 further comprising the steps of:
providing a terminal; and
coupling said terminal to said database by use of a public connection.

Claim 40 (New): The method Claim 34 further comprising the steps of:
providing a credential;
reviewing said credential; and
allowing said created image and said created textual information to be retrieved
only upon review of said credential.

Claim 41 (New): The method of Claim 40 wherein said credential comprises a token.

Claim 42 (New): The method of Claim 41 further comprising the step of creating copies of an image.

Claim 43 (New): A method for effectuating a transaction, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of characteristics, of a plurality of items;

associating each of said plurality of characteristics with a unique one of said plurality of items;

creating a plurality of images of each of said plurality of items;

associating each of said plurality of images with a unique one of said plurality of items;

storing said created plurality of characteristics and said created plurality of images within at least one database;

providing an identification object;

recognizing said identification object;

in response to said recognition of said identification object, selecting a predetermined one of said plurality of images and the characteristic which has been previously associated with said predetermined one of said plurality of images; and

determining whether to allow said transaction to be effectuated by use of said provided image and said associated characteristic.

Claim 44 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein said identification object comprises a token.

Claim 45 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein said identification object comprises an identification card.

Claim 46 (New): The method of Claim 43 further comprising the step of printing said provided image after said transaction has been effectuated.

Claim 47 (New): The method of Claim 43 further comprising the step of printing said provided image before said transaction has been effectuated.

Claim 48 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein said plurality of images is stored in a first database and wherein said plurality of characteristics is stored in a second database.

Claim 49 (New): The method of Claim 48 wherein said plurality of images are compressed.

Claim 50 (New): The method of Claim 48 wherein said plurality of images are stored in a first format and displayed in a second format.

Claim 51 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein said transaction comprises an auction.

Claim 52 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein said transaction comprises a financial transaction.

Claim 53 (New): The method of Claim 43 wherein each of said plurality of images may be selectively associated with a plurality of items.